

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE ~~2-A~~

WASHINGTON TIMES  
22 August 1985

# Soviets acknowledge space weapons research in new 'Star Wars' booklet

By Bill Gertz  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Soviet Union has acknowledged for the first time that it is engaged in military space research but denies its military efforts are geared toward developing "space strike weapons."

The Soviets revealed existence of their space weapons program in a new booklet issued last week called "Star Wars: Delusions and Dangers," a polemic against the Reagan administration's Strategic Defense Initiative. A copy of the report was obtained by The Washington Times.

The 56-page booklet was published in Moscow by the Military Publishing House and is being distributed by the Information Department of the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Compared with other Soviet propaganda releases, "Star Wars" appears more sophisticated and contains color maps and drawings of U.S. military systems, including a drawing of a proposed U.S. mobile intercontinental ballistic missile called the Midgetman.

It also shows the location of U.S. anti-

satellite warfare bases in the United States where F-15 aircraft capable of firing anti-satellite missiles are stationed. The Reagan administration said Tuesday it would conduct three tests of an airborne anti-satellite interceptor this year.

After criticizing U.S. space defense research as part of a "strategy directed to preparing the stage for nuclear war,"

the Soviet booklet states that "certainly space research is also being done in the Soviet Union, and in the military field, too."

It adds that the Soviets are not developing any "space strike weapons," the Soviet phrase for space- and ground-based satellite interceptors, particle

beams and lasers capable of attacking objects in space.

But a draft CIA report on Soviet space weapons research circulated on Capitol Hill last March states that "hostile Soviet reactions" to SDI and "lobbying by high-level Soviet scientists" should be viewed in light of the fact that the Soviets are engaged in extensive space weapons

research.

"The Soviet Union has not admitted to its own long-standing counterpart [space] research, and the most vocal Soviet scientists have themselves been heavily involved in that weapons research," the CIA report on "Soviet Directed Energy Weapons" states.

The CIA report states that a Rand Corp. study on Soviet space weapons found Soviet research on exotic particle beam weapons "appears singularly applicable to the task of propagating particle beams in space."

"The Soviets already have a ground-based laser capable of damaging some U.S. satellites," the CIA report states.

By the 1990s, the CIA estimates that the Soviets "may deploy operational space-based laser systems for anti-satellite purposes," the report states.

The CIA believes the United States is "on the threshold of an alternative Soviet line of attack — to compete with the U.S. in strategic defense."

In Geneva Tuesday the International Defense Journal published an article which asserted that the Soviet Union has been working on its own "star wars" program for two decades despite its opposition to U.S. plans to develop a space-based missile defense shield.

"Despite its shrill protests against President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative [popularly known as 'star wars'], the Soviet Union has been developing its own 'star wars' space weapons since 1964," said the article which was based on information from Soviet bloc sources.

Among the space weapons being developed by the Soviets are new anti-ballistic missiles known as the SH-04 and SH-08.